What is claimed is:

1. The combination of a digital audio player and recorder for playing and recording digital data, and a cradle for receiving the digital audio player and recorder,

the digital audio player and recorder comprising:

a data storage device capable of receiving a data storage medium;

a printed circuit assembly (PCA) connected to the data storage device;

a housing enclosing the data storage device and the PCA; and

a first connector extending through the housing and connected to the PCA for transferring data between the cradle and the data storage device; and

the cradle comprising:

a receptacle adapted to receive the player and recorder;

a second connector adapted to detachably couple with the first connector; and

a third connector adapted to detachably couple with an external data source.

2. The combination of claim 1, wherein the data storage device comprises a disk drive, the disk drive capable of receiving a data storage cartridge or disk and reading and recording digital data to the data storage cartridge or disk.

3. The combination of claim 1, wherein the digital audio player and recorder further comprises a power source.

4. The combination of claim 3, wherein the power source comprises a rechargeable battery.

5. The combination of claim 3, wherein the power source is connected to the first connector.

6. The combination of claim 1, wherein the cradle further comprises a fourth connector adapted to detachably couple with a power supply.

7. The combination of claim 6, wherein the fourth connector is electrically connected to the second connector.

8. The combination of claim 1, wherein the digital audio player and recorder further comprises manually operable switches to control the operation of the data storage device.

9. The combination of claim 1 wherein the digital audio player and recorder further comprises a display, the display showing information relating to the digital data.

10. A cradle for receiving a digital audio player and recorder and transferring data to and from the digital audio player and recorder having a first connector, the cradle comprising:

a receptacle adapted to receive the player and recorder;

a second connector adapted to detachably couple with the first connector; and

a third connector adapted to detachably couple with an external data source.

11. The cradle of claim 10 wherein the second connector adaptively mates with the first connector on the digital audio player and recorder.

12. The cradle of claim 10 wherein the cradle further comprises:

a printed circuit assembly, the printed circuit assembly for performing communicative functions between the external data source and the digital audio player and recorder.

13. The cradle of claim 10, wherein the cradle further comprises a fourth connector adapted to detachably couple with a power supply.

14. The cradle of claim 13, wherein the fourth connector is electrically connected to the second connector.

15. A digital audio player and recorder comprising:

a data storage device capable of receiving a data storage medium;

a printed circuit assembly (PCA) connected to the data storage device;

a housing enclosing the data storage device and the PCA;

and

a first connector extending through the housing and connected to the PCA for transferring data between a cradle and the data storage device.

16. The digital audio player and recorder of claim 15, wherein the data storage device comprises a disk drive, the disk drive capable of receiving a data storage cartridge or disk and reading and recording digital data to the data storage cartridge or disk.

17. The digital audio player and recorder of claim 15, wherein the digital audio player and recorder further comprises a power source.

18. The digital audio player and recorder of claim 17, wherein the power source comprises a rechargeable battery.

19. The digital audio player and recorder of claim 17, wherein the power source is connected to the first connector.

20. The digital audio player and recorder of claim 15, wherein the digital audio player and recorder further comprises manually operable switches to control the operation of the data storage device, and a display, the display showing information relating to the digital data.